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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,320	07/25/2003	Martin Theriault	Serie 5352	2281

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EXAMINER

RAGONESE, ANDREA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3743

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,320

Applicant(s)

THERIAULT ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea M. Ragonese

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 10 and 13-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Robertson et al. (US 4,838,911). Robertson et al. discloses a method for eliminating moisture from electronic components inherent in the use and operation of a storage cabinet, as shown in Figures 1-3, comprising the steps of:

- storing electronic components in a storage area **10**;
- maintaining a warm and dry atmosphere in the storage area **10** by enclosing the storage area **10** and injecting a warm and dry gas into the storage area **10** at a flow rate and temperature which are controlled to eliminate moisture from the components in the storage area **10** (column 3, lines 3-19);
- wherein the component storage area **10** is a storage cabinet **12** having a base portion **14**, a body portion **16** and a top surface **18**, for storing the components, as shown in Figure 1 (column 2, lines 24-33);
- a temperature control system **68**, **66** for controlling a temperature of the dry gas to about 10°C to about 60°C, wherein the ideal component temperature is between about 65°F (18°C) to about 75°F (21°C) in order to prevent permanent damage to the components (column 1, lines 35-38);

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- wherein the temperature control system **68, 66** controls the temperature of the dry gas to about 20°C to about 50°C, wherein the ideal component temperature of about 65°F (18°C) to about 75°F (21°C) still falls within this range $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$;
- wherein the flow rate of the dry gas delivered to the storage area **10** is controlled by a control system including a humidity sensor within the component storage area **10**, as shown in Figure 2B (column 3, lines 52-57); and
- wherein a temperature and a flow rate of the dry gas are controlled to eliminate moisture from the components while the components are stored in the storage area **10** (column 1, lines 61-68 and column 2, lines 1-7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claim 11** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson et al. (US 4,838,911) in view of Takano (US 5,749,234). Robertson et al. teaches a method comprising all limitations recited in **claim 11**, with the exception of a component storage area that is a feeder cart for storing the components. Takano teaches the use of casters on a storage cabinet to make it transportable. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add casters to the component storage apparatus of Robertson et al. to turn the apparatus into a feeder cart because, as taught by Takano, it is well-known in the art to

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attach casters—small wheels on a swivel—under pieces of furniture, such as storage cabinets, in order to make it easier to move.

5. **Claim 12** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson et al. (US 4,838,911) in view of Rieger (EP 0 959 653 A2). Robertson et al. teaches an apparatus comprising all limitations recited in **claim 12**, with the exception of a component storage area that is a cabinet receiving at least one feeder cart for storing the components. Rieger teaches the use of a storage cabinet with a gas-tight housing for receiving at least one feeder cart for long-term storage of electronic components. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to turn the component storage area of Robertson et al. into a cabinet for receiving at least one feeder cart for storing the components because, as taught by Rieger, it is well-known in the art to store electronic components in a gas-tight house with a defined gaseous atmosphere obtained via a dehumidifier in order to prevent damage to stored components resulting from air humidity.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. **Claim 17** is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

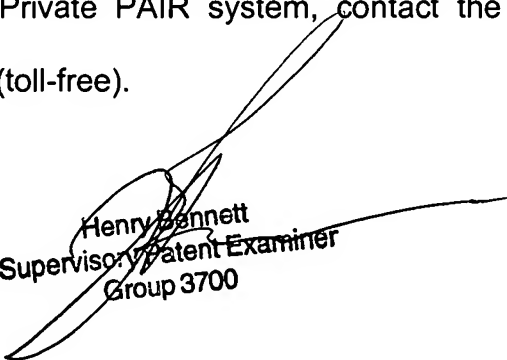
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Andrea M. Ragone** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-4055**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8 am until 3 pm.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry A. Bennett can be reached on (703) 308-0101. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AMR


Henry A. Bennett
Supervisor, Patent Examiner
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